Newsletter of the
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's
Nurses Alumni Association

RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

news & views
WINTER 2010

NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM MARKS 45 YEARS OF CLINICAL TRAINING

"Rush's nurse anesthesia program has long had the benefit of being housed in a competitive, academic medical center, with surgical services that have always taken care of the most critically ill patients. Rush's nurse anesthesia students saw some of the first-ever craniofacial

> *"Rush's nurse anesthesia program has long had the benefit of being housed in a competitive, academic medical center, with surgical services that have always taken care of the most critically ill patients."*
>
> MARGARET FAUT-CALLAHAN, CRNA, PHD, FAAN

This year marks the 45th anniversary of Rush's nurse anesthesia program. What began in 1965 as a certificate training program in the Department of Anesthesiology at Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital is now firmly established as one of the nation's top nurse anesthesia programs. Even as the program welcomes a new director (alumnus Michael J. Kremer, CRNA, PhD, FAAN, *see page 3*) and continues to evolve, it celebrates the close collaboration between nurse educators and anesthesiologists that has become the program's hallmark and propelled its success.

At a time when nurse anesthesia was caught between the fields of medicine and nursing, belonging to both simultaneously, Rush led the charge to align nurse anesthesia education more closely with nursing practice. Nurse anesthetist Candy Thomason and anesthesiologists Dick Thomason and Max Sadove helped initiate the Presbyterian-St. Luke's certificate program; Medical Center leaders Luther Christman and James A. Campbell, along with Sadove, then built upon this foundation as they shaped the vision for a graduate program in nurse anesthesia. That vision included Christman's conviction that this program should prepare the advanced leaders and clinical instructors the field so desperately needed. To this end, Rush launched the nation's first master's degree nurse anesthesia program to be housed in a college of nursing in 1979.

Alumna Margaret Faut-Callahan, CRNA, PhD, FAAN *(see page 6)*, was the program's very first master's graduate in June 1979. As the program's director at various times from 1979 to 2008, she played a major role in the program's recent success; she credits Rush's culture of multidisciplinary collaboration for providing students with a wealth of clinical opportunities.

surgeries, some very significant advances in orthopedics and some of the earliest open heart surgeries," Faut-Callahan said. "A program housed in that environment, by its very nature, would have a bar that is higher than others."

For more than a decade, the nurse anesthesia program has been ranked among the nation's top three programs of its kind by *U.S.News & World Report.* What's more, the program's alumni are driving the evolution of the field: of the 109 nurse anesthesia programs nationwide accredited by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, more than 10 percent are headed by graduates of Rush's nurse anesthesia program *(see page 6),* a clear sign that Rush continues to shape the field of nursing anesthesia.

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN MELANIE DREHER

BUILDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH NEW TRADITIONS

In this issue of *News & Views,* we have a lot to share with you. First, we are pleased to highlight the history and evolution of our well-known and highly respected nurse anesthesia program. The outstanding reputation of this program reflects Rush's futuristic thinking about nursing practice, research and education as well as our history, traditions and enduring values. I'm confident you will enjoy this update on an extraordinary program, its students, its graduates and its leadership.

When I speak with our alumni, I'm struck by their vivid memories of school traditions, like the capping ceremony that symbolized their induction to the profession. Ceremonies marking the milestones of student progress are important in nursing. Now, with our new Generalist Entry Master's (GEM) Program graduating its first class in June, we needed to invent new traditions that would impart the significance of being a Rush nurse.

In May 2009, we held our first "Entry Into the Profession" ceremony to mark the transition of our prelicensure master's students from introductory studies to clinical practice education. In this ceremony, members of both the faculty and the alumni association welcomed nursing students to the profession and emphasized the profound importance of what they will do as future Rush nurses. The alumni association also has partnered with the Student Nurses Association to offer professional development presentations and seminars. The goal is for alumni to facilitate the transition of their junior colleagues to professional life by expanding professional networks and opportunities.

Finally, and sadly, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association President Mary Severino Meyer, MSN, RN (RUSH 1994 and 2008), lost her battle to cancer in January *(see page 5).* An energetic and inspirational supporter of the college and students, Mary will be deeply missed. We are confident, however, that her legacy of creative service, her desire to engage young alumni and her tireless commitment to education will continue to encourage all Rush graduates to serve with her same grace and indomitable spirit.

Best wishes,

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HELPS WITH STUDENTS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Nov. 16, 2009, the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association partnered with the Rush Student Nurses Association to present a career night Q&A session with guest speaker Angelique Richard, PhD, RN (Rush 1985 and 1988, pictured right). Richard is vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Ill. The event is the first in a planned series of professional development lectures and presentations open to Rush students and alumni.

FACULTY PROFILE

MICHAEL J. KREMER, CRNA, PHD, FAAN
DIRECTOR OF THE NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

In 2009, Rush University College of Nursing welcomed back Michael J. Kremer, CRNA, PhD, FAAN (Rush 1997), as director of the nurse anesthesia program, associate professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing, and co-director of the Rush University Simulation Lab. Kremer brings valuable experience in the areas of curriculum development, clinical site acquisition, and faculty and student recruitment.

Kremer was a faculty member and associate director of Rush's nurse anesthesia program from 1999 to 2005 and was integral in the establishment of Rush University's Simulation Lab. Kremer returns to Rush following three years as associate professor and chair of the Nurse Anesthesia Department at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, a new program that was developed with his oversight. Kremer says one of the major factors that drew him back to Rush was the multidisciplinary collaboration, a major factor in the nurse anesthesia program's success.

"Everyone at Rush is committed to excellence in the educational experience that our students receive," he said. "In the 1970s, when I began my nursing career in the medical ICU at then-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital, nursing was definitely at the table of major policy decisions here, and that hasn't changed. Then, as now, Rush nurses and nursing students were highly respected as very competent patient advocates who really knew their stuff."

Kremer says his plans for the future of the nurse anesthesia program follow the same trajectory as the vision that's been articulated by Dean Melanie C. Dreher, PhD, RN, FAAN: to move toward educating nurses at the practice doctorate level and to maintain Rush's ranking among the top nurse anesthesia programs in the nation.

"We're still going to graduate clinical experts who will be able to land on their feet in any clinical setting. The theory is that if you can meet or exceed expectations at Rush, you can do so anywhere," Kremer said. "At the end of the day, we still want to provide the highest level of anesthesia care to every patient and to treat them as we would members of our own families."

Kremer was recently awarded the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' 2009 Helen Lamb Outstanding Educator Award. Judith Wiley, CRNA, DNP (Rush 1992 and 1999), associate director of Rush's nurse anesthesia program, received the organization's 2009 Clinical Instructor of the Year Award.

CLASS NOTES

ST. LUKE'S ::

HELEN GIANUTSOS ROBERTSON, 1946(B), of Ashland, Wis., has written a brief account of her experiences at St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing. Complete with historical photos and details about the curriculum and social life at the school, Robertson's memoir also includes details about her life after St. Luke's. Find the PDF online at www.con.rushalumni.org/notes, or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-2569 for a copy.

LILLIAN TAPIA LONGINOW, 1957, of Oak Park, Ill., was featured in an Oct. 2009 story published in the *Wednesday Journal,* the weekly newspaper of Oak Park and River Forest, Ill. Longinow participated in the 50-yard freestyle and 50-yard backstroke events at the Six-County Senior Olympics, held last summer in Park Ridge, Ill. Longinow told the *Wednesday Journal,* "Swimming has given me a dramatic change in self-perception that I can try new things, which I have done."

PRESBYTERIAN ::

CATHERINE KRATTEBOL LITT, 1935, turned 95 years old in 2009 and lives independently in Antigo, Wis. Her husband passed away at the age of 96 in 2008, five weeks before their 70th wedding anniversary. Litt writes that prior to her retirement from Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in 1971, she was a nurse on 2 Pavilion.

PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S ::

MELINDA FRASER-BURTON, 1962, of Aurora, Ill., has worked in many fields of nursing, management and administration and had a private counseling practice for 29 years. She has four children and seven grandchildren and is now retired.

SEND US YOUR NEWS ::

Please submit your professional news and personal updates to the Office of Alumni Relations by e-mail at alumni@rush.edu, by phone at (312) 942-2569 or by mail at the Office of Alumni Relations, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 W. Van Buren St., Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612.

RUSH ::

JUDITH J. MCCANN, MS 1978, DNSc 1991, was honored as the 2009 Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna at the Sept. 25 Homecoming celebration on the Rush University Medical Center campus. McCann is a professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing at Rush University College of Nursing and a research scientist with the Rush Institute for Healthy Aging. McCann is an internationally recognized expert in the care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. For more information, visit www.con.rushalumni.org/mccann.

RITA ALLEN BRENNAN, MS 1987, DNP 2008, of Lombard, Ill., was selected to present at the 4th International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care: Partnerships for Safety and Quality last August in Philadelphia. Brennan presented an interactive poster presentation entitled "Assessing Family Centered Pediatric Care in a Community Hospital Setting," highlighting best practices in patient- and family-centered care. Brennan is the outcomes manager of women and children's services at Central DuPage Hospital.

SHEILA RAE JESEK-HALE, DNSc 1994, of Decatur, Ill., is retiring from her position as associate professor of nursing at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill. Jesek-Hale has taught at Illinois Wesleyan for 23 years, first as assistant professor of nursing before being promoted to associate professor in 2004.

CHARLENE "CHARLIE" WINTERS, PhD 1998, is an associate professor of nursing at Montana State University and co-editor of *Rural Nursing: Concepts, Theory, and Practice* (3rd ed.)(Springer).

MELISSA A. BURDI, BSN 2003, of North Aurora, Ill., earned her master's degree from University of Illinois at Chicago School of Nursing in the spring of 2009. Burdi is a professional development consultant at Central DuPage Hospital, where her recent responsibilities have focused on serving as a leader within the Department of Professional Development, charged with the maintenance of daily operations. Burdi sits on the board of directors for the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association.

JOSEPH DEBONIS, BSN 2009, has been called into active duty with the United States Army. He departed on Oct. 14 for officer training, after which he said he would be assigned to an Army regional medical center. He wrote, "As I transition to a career as a professional nurse, I take with me the confidence that I will be an excellent one because of my education at Rush. [Rush's] program challenged me every class, every quarter and every clinical."

IN MEMORIAM

ST. LUKE'S ::

MARIE CLAIRE WILLIAMSON NELSON, 1941, of Norridge, Ill.; Aug. 2, 2009

ELIZABETH WEEKS GRIFFITH, 1951, of St. Charles, Ill.; Oct. 17, 2009

JEAN PRESBREY, 1953, of Torrance, Calif.; 2009

CORRINNE A. RENTSCHLER, 1953, of Scottsdale, Ariz.; Feb. 21, 2009

PRESBYTERIAN ::

ELLEN HOLMBOE KLAWUHN, 1941, of Franklin, Wis.; March 27, 2007

THERESA McCRAY LOOMIS, 1946, of Centralia, Ill.; July 11, 2009

ANNETTE BALL REYNOLDS, 1946, of Roseberg, Ore.; Dec. 9, 2009

MARY ANNE KIRKPATRICK OGILVIE, 1948, of Gurnee, Ill.; July 11, 2009

MARGARET M. WEST, 1956, of Des Plaines, Ill.; Jan. 4, 2010

BETTY HUDEC PROTHERO, 1959, of Clarendon Hills, Ill.; June 12, 2009

PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S ::

DIANE JUNE BONITZER, 1963, of Dundee, Ill.; Aug. 25, 2009

RUSH ::

GLYEN F. LUNDWALL, CRNA 1972, of Tarpon Springs, Fla.; April 20, 2009

KARYN CHERMEL, MS 1980, of LaGrange, Ill.; Dec. 6, 2009

MARY PAT PAQUETTE, BS 1981, of Kerrville, Texas; Sept. 27, 2009

PAULA A. JOSEPH, BS 1994, of Chicago; January 2010

FORMER FACULTY ::

DIANE CRONIN-STUBBS, PhD, RN, FAAN, of Newcastle, Wash., died July 28, 2009. From 1984 to 2000, her roles with Rush University College of Nursing included graduate program coordinator, assistant chairperson, research coordinator, clinical nurse researcher, and research scientist. Her many honors included a Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health, visiting fellowships at Harvard and Northwestern Universities, and induction into the American Academy of Nursing.

The Diane Cronin-Stubbs Nursing Scholarship has been established in her memory and will be managed by the leadership of the Golden Lamp Society. Gifts to the Cronin-Stubbs memorial may be made online using our secure Web site at www.rush.edu/giveonline, or contact Kathy Risor-Heise at (312) 942-7199 for more information.

MARY SEVERINO MEYER, RUSH MS 1994, CERT. 2008, president of the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association and member of the Rush Board of Trustees, died Jan. 20, 2010. She was 45. Meyer had served as clinical coordinator for medicine at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital since 2006. She previously worked at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where her titles included nurse educator in the Department of Nursing Development and clinical coordinator for the hospital's Health Learning Center. She also served five years as a consultant for the Heartwatch Program and Employee Wellness for Central DuPage Hospital and one year as adjunct faculty at Elmhurst College's Deicke Center for Nursing Education.

"Mary was such an extraordinary nurse. She was dedicated to leadership, as seen in her commitment to the alumni association, and to the continued education of nurses as patient advocates," said MaryPat Mauro, senior director of development and alumni relations at Rush. "Mary had a particular talent for reaching out to nurses from all generations. She was able to inspire more established nurses with an enthusiasm for the future of nursing and to instill in Rush's student nurses a profound respect for the privilege of nursing." *(See Dean Dreher's message on page 2 for more thoughts on Mary.)*

Meyer is survived by her husband, James; her children, Ronald, Joseph and Gabrielle; parents, Dr. Ronald and Rosemary Severino; parents-in-law, Ronald and Marjorie Meyer; and brothers, Dr. Michael (Angela) Severino, Nicholas (Laura) Severino, and Dr. Ronald (Dr. Elizabeth) Severino, among countless other friends and family members. Alumni relations staff, the Nurses Alumni Association board and College of Nursing leadership join all alumni in expressing our condolences to the family.

RUSH NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM ALUMNI LEADING THE FIELD

While nurse anesthesia alumni like Michael J. Kremer *(see page 3),* Margaret Faut-Callahan, Judith Wiley and Joseph Iacopelli became leaders in Rush's own nurse anesthesia program, many alumni have gone on to become expert practitioners, teachers and leaders of other top programs. The following are just some of the Rush alumni who are leading the field of nursing anesthesia nationwide. For more on these alumni, visit us online at www.con.rushalumni .org/NAleaders. If you don't appear in this listing and are a nurse anesthesia graduate with an update to share, contact us at (312) 942-2569 or alumni@rush.edu.

MICHELE E. GOLD, CRNA, PhD
Director, Nurse Anesthesia Program,
Associate Professor of Clinical
Anesthesiology, Keck School of Medicine
of University of Southern California
Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia, 1977
Master of Science, 1984

LOU HEINDEL, CRNA, DNP
Assistant Professor & Director,
Nurse Anesthesia Program,
University of Maryland School of Nursing
Master of Science, 1994
Doctor of Nursing Practice, 1995

PAUL HENDERSON, CRNA, MSHSA
President, Great Lakes Anesthesia,
currently the largest employer of CRNAs
in Indiana
CRNA, 1979

LINDA HILL, CRNA, DNSc
Associate Professor/Coordinator,
MSN Nurse Anesthesia Concentration,
School of Nursing,
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Master of Science, 1996
Doctor of Nursing Science, 1998

JOSEPH IACOPELLI, CRNA, MSN
Clinical Course Director,
Nurse Anesthesia Program,
Rush University College of Nursing
Master of Nursing Science, 2001

LYNN L LEBECK, CRNA, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor & Program
Director, University of Michigan-Flint/
Hurley Medical Center Master of Science
in Anesthesia Program
Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing, 2003

LENORE LITWIN, CRNA, MSN
Chair, Nursing Anesthesia Program,
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
Master of Nursing Science, 2003

NANCY A. MORIBER, CRNA, PhD, APRN
Program Director,
Nurse Anesthesia Program,
Fairfield University & Bridgeport Hospital
Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing, 2009

NURSE ANESTHESIA SCHOLARSHIP EFFORT HONORS FAUT-CALLAHAN

A number of alumni and friends are working to establish the Margaret Faut-Callahan Scholarship for Nurse Anesthesia Students. The scholarship effort recognizes the many contributions Margaret Faut-Callahan, CRNA, PhD, FAAN (Pres.-St. Luke's 1976, Rush 1979 and 1984), now dean of Marquette University College of Nursing, has made to Rush's nurse anesthesia program and to Rush University College of Nursing.

"Margaret was instrumental in making the Rush nurse anesthesia program one of the top-ranked programs in the nation, so it is only fitting that we honor her work and dedication as we educate a new generation of nurse anesthetists," said Joyce Keithley, DNSc, RN, FAAN (Rush 1980, professor of adult health and gerontological nursing at Rush).

The goal is to raise $100,000 to endow a scholarship specifically to defray the costs of tuition so that highest caliber students from all walks of life can afford to pursue their dreams. To date, $51,000 has been raised from alumni and friends towards this effort. If you are interested in contributing to this special scholarship, please contact Kathy Risor-Heise, director of development and alumni relations, at (312) 942-7199 or Kathryn_Risor-Heise@rush.edu.

JOSEPH E PELLEGRINI, CRNA, PhD
Associate Professor, Assistant Director & Director of Research, Nurse Anesthesia Program, University of Maryland
Master of Science, 1995
Doctor of Nursing Practice, 1996
Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing, 1998

MICHAEL RIEKER, CRNA, DNP
Director, Nurse Anesthesia Program,
Wake Forest University
Baptist Medical Center
Master of Science, 1994
Doctor of Nursing Practice, 2003

JUDITH WILEY, CRNA, DNP
Associate Director,
Nurse Anesthesia Program,
Rush University College of Nursing
Master of Science, 1992
Doctor of Nursing Practice, 1999

KATHLEEN WREN, CRNA, PhD
Program Administrator,
Nurse Anesthesia Program,
Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences in Orlando
Master of Science, 1984

STEPHEN J. YERMAL, CRNA, PhD
Assistant Professor & Director,
Nurse Anesthesia Program,
Oregon Health & Science University
School of Nursing
Master of Science, 1988

COLLEGE NEWS

RESEARCH ::

Principal investigator **JOELLEN WILBUR, PhD, APN, FAAN,** associate dean for nursing research and scholarship, and co-investigators, including **LYNNE BRAUN, PhD, CNP, FAAN (RUSH 1980 and 1997); LOU FOGG, PhD; ARLENE MILLER, PhD, RN, FAAN; TRICIA JOHNSON, PhD, MA;** and **ANNABELLE VOLGMAN, MD, FACC,** have received more than $3 million in a five-year grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research to fund their clinical trial, "Reducing Health Disparity in African American Women: Physical Activity Adherence."

WRENETHA JULION, PhD, MPH, RN (DNSc 2002), associate professor of women's and children's health nursing, with **DEBORAH GROSS, DNSC, RN, FAAN (DNSc 1983),** and **SUSAN BREITENSTEIN, PhD, RN (RUSH 1994, 1997 and 2009),** have been awarded funding from the National Institutes of Health for their "African-American Non-Resident Fatherhood Program," featured in the Summer 2009 issue of *News & Views.*

FACULTY NEWS ::

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses honored **KATHLEEN GAINOR ANDREOLI, RN, DSN, FAAN,** the Kellogg Emeritus Dean of Rush University College of Nursing, with its GE Healthcare-American Association of Critical Care Nurses Pioneering Spirit Award at the AACN 2009 National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition in May. The award recognizes significant contributions that influence acute and critical-care nursing regionally and nationally and relate to AACN's mission, vision and values.

Last April, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed **MELANIE C. DREHER, PhD, RN, FAAN,** to the Chicago Board of Health. The Chicago Board of Health formulates health policies and advises the mayor and the public health commissioner on all health issues. Steven K. Rothschild, MD, director of the Section of Community and Social Medicine at Rush, was also appointed to the board.

ARLENE MILLER, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been appointed chairperson of the Department of Community, Systems and Mental Health Nursing. Miller joins Rush from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she served as professor and department head for the Department of Health Systems Sciences. Miller precedes the recently retired **JULIA MUENNICH COWELL, PHD, RNC, FAAN,** in this role.

news & views

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RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

news & views

WINTER 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

GOLDEN LAMP SOCIETY LUNCHEON
June 10, 2010
Searle Conference Center
Rush University Medical Center

CNE OPPORTUNITIES

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS USING EXCEL
April 2, 2010

LONGITUDINAL DATA ANALYSIS USING SPSS
April 9, 2010

RANDOM REGRESSION MODELS USING STATISTICAL FREEWARE
June 11, 2010

For more details, visit www.con.rushalumni.org/events or call (312) 942-2659. For more upcoming CNE opportunities or to register, visit www.con.rushalumni.org/cne.

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RUSH

news & views
FALL 2010

NURSING RESEARCH AT RUSH TAKES A HUGE LEAP FORWARD

"I would not have gotten my own grant without the feedback I received from colleagues in the College of Nursing."

JoELLEN WILBUR, PHD, APN, FAAN
(pictured speaking with a research study participant)

Over the course of three years, Rush University College of Nursing has doubled the number of faculty members holding peer-reviewed research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), considered the gold standard in research funding. In terms of dollars awarded, Rush's 2009 ranking — ninth in the nation — represents an increase from $2.4 million in research funding in 2008 to $3 million in 2009.

The college's leadership attributes this rapid growth to the expansion of its infrastructure for cultivating faculty talent. Melanie Dreher, the John L. and Helen Kellogg Dean of Rush University College of Nursing, appointed JoEllen Wilbur, PhD, APN, FAAN, associate dean for research in 2008. Wilbur leads the college's Office of Research and Scholarship, staffed by a statistician, data manager and knowledgeable support staff who understand NIH requirements, format and budget. Under her direction, the college also has taken steps to build "bench strength" by formalizing the mentoring and collaboration that have long been hallmarks of its culture.

"We have peer critiques — all of us sit around, think each project through and ask investigators the tough questions so they hear them at home first. Overall, this helps ensure the quality of study design and the thoughtfulness of researchers' revisions," Wilbur said. "I would not have gotten my own grant without the feedback I received from colleagues in the College of Nursing, and that's true of all the nurse-researchers here at Rush."

From researchers' work with vulnerable populations in the community to studies that improve processes within a hospital setting, each individual project's success helps build the college's reputation, positioning it for further growth even as federal budgets remain flat. To that end, a pipeline is in place by which new assistant professors progress from small-scale internal pilot grants and roles as co-investigators on their mentors' NIH-funded projects to their own externally funded projects. Recognizing that a dynamic research enterprise enriches nursing education at all levels, faculty members use real-world examples from their studies to bring classroom lectures to life.

"New grants create opportunities for students to act as research assistants and learn how nurse scientists build the evidence base for best practices," Wilbur said. "Rush is preparing the next generation to think critically about how the preventive care they provide can improve patient outcomes and eliminate disparities — a skill that will be critical wherever they choose to practice."

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MESSAGE FROM DEAN MELANIE DREHER

IT TAKES A COLLEGE TO RAISE A RESEARCHER

The College of Nursing has made major strides in strengthening our research enterprise, and we're pleased to share the details of this growth with you in this issue of *News & Views.* In three short years, we have gone from having one National Institutes of Health-funded project to having eight, all with a relatively small senior research faculty. But these results tell only a part of the story.

The real achievement is that this dramatic proliferation was not accomplished by recruiting academic "stars" to bring their programs of research to Rush. In fact, only one of the eight awards was granted to a new member of the faculty. The rest were granted to seasoned faculty members who had been at Rush for several years. For five of these investigators, this was their first NIH award.

Aside from the talent and vision of our investigators, what factors have helped us achieve this? For starters, the college's creation of an Office of Research and Scholarship with an experienced research support staff has made all the difference. But having expert scholars and a research office, no matter how well appointed, is not sufficient to accomplish the job. Rather, it takes a constellation of incentives, expectations and investments throughout the college, in which all members of the faculty and staff contribute to, and benefit from, the research enterprise.

As you read in our cover story, each proposal submitted to the NIH reflects the investment of the whole college — from the department chairs who help cultivate potential researchers, to research colleagues who participate in the reviews that enhance each proposal, to the practice colleagues who inform the research proposal clinically. The dedication of the entire nursing faculty completes the cycle from practice-based evidence to evidence-based practice, ultimately exposing our students to leading-edge nursing practice and better preparing them to deliver the most effective bedside care.

Best wishes,

RECONNECT WITH THE COLLEGE AND FELLOW ALUMNI ON FACEBOOK

With more than 500 followers, the Rush University Alumni Facebook page is the perfect place to learn what's happening at Rush, view photos from alumni and university events and network with fellow Rush alumni across the health disciplines. You can even reconnect with fellow alumni from your era in our "Discussions" section. Visit www.facebook.com/RushUniversityAlumni and click the "like" button to follow our news feed.

ALUMNA PROFILE

DONNA M. STANISLAWSKI, BS 1986, MS 1995
COMPANY NURSE, WILDERNESS SAFARIS, BOTSWANA

Tell us about your nursing education at Rush.

Before getting my bachelor's in nursing at Rush in 1986, I obtained a bachelor's degree in dietetics, nutrition and food science from Northern Illinois University. I always wanted to become a nurse and sought a program with a strong academic foundation as well as diverse clinical opportunities. Rush was a perfect fit.

After graduating, I worked as a staff nurse in labor and delivery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and was later promoted to unit educator. In 1990, I joined the staff of the women's HIV clinic and became very involved in perinatal HIV research, care and treatment. I was fortunate to be involved in the groundbreaking AZT-placebo trial to prevent perinatal HIV transmission. I wanted a master's degree that would incorporate obstetrics, gynecology and HIV in women. No such program existed at the time, so I submitted a proposal to Rush to create the educational experience I envisioned. Rush supported me 100 percent.

Now you're practicing in Botswana. How did this come about?

In the early 2000s, I was ready for a new phase of my career and with it, new challenges. I joined the Peace Corps in 2003 and was sent to Botswana, where I worked with their government, coordinating the mother-to-infant HIV transmission program for the country's northwest region. My term ended in 2005, but I wasn't yet ready to leave my work with this population. Since then, I've worked for Wilderness Safaris, providing general health care and rapid HIV testing to their 850 employees in camps spread across the region. There's also a great deal of hypertension, STIs and preventable diseases, so much of my job involves health education. Teaching patients about options for behavior change — diet modification, protected sex — is critical.

What are some of the greatest challenges you face in your work, and how do you adapt to meet them?

My work is very mobile — one day I may be practicing in a tent, the next in a staff office, the next under a tree out in the bush. Access to supplies is limited, and resources are scarce — in rural areas in the northern part of the country, you frequently don't have electricity or equipment breaks down. Getting simple blood tests can take months. You have to be a more creative practitioner in that environment; it forces you to ask better questions and rely more on assessment. In the Western world, we have a tendency to test in excess. Luckily, my experiences as a student at Rush gave me excellent physical assessment skills. In this environment, you must listen carefully to the patient, think more critically and find solutions to problems on your own.

Donna Stanislawski caring for a patient in a staff office in Botswana

"My work is very mobile — one day I may be practicing in a tent, the next in a staff office, the next under a tree out in the bush. ... You have to be a more creative practitioner in that environment."

COLLEGE NEWS

The Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago has partnered with Rush University College of Nursing to develop a first-of-its-kind cultural competency curriculum for the care of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and HIV-positive older adults. Beginning this year, the curriculum will train up to 280 nursing professionals and nursing students annually.

In April, Rush University College of Nursing was awarded a $100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) toward scholarships for the pre-licensure Generalist Entry Master's (GEM) Program. Beginning in January, Rush will offer newly enrolled qualified GEM students from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds a $10,000 RWJF scholarship. Rush will provide a $10,000 grant to additional qualified students who meet the RWJF criteria and are in financial need.

FACULTY NEWS ::

CATHY CATRAMBONE, PHD, RN (MS 1989, DNSc 2000), assistant professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing, was elected to the Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing for 2009–2011. She serves as chair of the Regional Chapter Coordinating Committee, which provides support to more than 470 chapters worldwide.

KATHLEEN DELANEY, PHD, RN, PMH-NP (DNSc 1983, CERT. 2005), professor and specialty coordinator of the Psychiatric-Mental Health FNP Program, has been announced as one of the 2010 inductees to the American Academy of Nursing. Through 20 years of sustained leadership, Delaney has made seminal contributions to inpatient psychiatric nursing practice, policy and work force development, and advanced practice psychiatric mental health nursing education. (See also "Class Notes" entry for Betty Horton, DNSc 1998.)

CAROL J. FARRAN, DNSc, RN, FAAN (DNSc 1985), professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing and the Nurses Alumni Association Chair in Health and the Aging Process, has received a National Institutes of Health Plain Language/Clear Communications Gold Award from the National Institute of Aging for the publication "Caring for a Person With Alzheimer's Disease." Also, Farran was selected to receive the 2010 John A. Hartford Foundation/MNRS Award for Leadership in Geriatric Nursing Research. The award recognizes Farran's research with family caregivers of persons who have Alzheimer's disease and her mentoring of doctoral students and junior faculty.

PAULA MEIER, DNSC, RN, FAAN (DNSc 1985), professor in the Department of Women, Children and Family Nursing, has been selected president-elect of the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of excellence in research and the dissemination of research findings in the field of human milk and lactation.

JENNIFER B. ROUSSEAU, MSN, RN, ARNP, assistant professor in the Department of Women, Children and Family Nursing, has received the Nurse Educator Fellowship Award from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Recipients of these fellowships collaborate with the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Center for Nursing by reviewing nominations for future fellows, participating in statewide nursing advocacy and preparing reports that describe their fellowship experiences.

MARILYN WIDEMAN, DNP, RN-BC (DNP 2007), director of faculty practice and outreach and assistant professor in the Department of Community, Systems and Mental Health Nursing, has been selected chair-elect for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Practice Leadership Network.

RESEARCH NEWS ::

A study from the College of Nursing's Center for Clinical Research and Scholarship has been selected as the Illinois Emergency Nurses Association Evidence-Based Practice contest winner. The project is titled "Assessing the Impact of a Glucose Docking Station on Diabetic Patient Care Management in the Emergency Department." The research team included Rush staff Meghan Halstead, RN, BSN; Sarah Cain, RN; Sarah Calvert, RN; and Jaime Harper, MD, with GEM Program student Nicole Pincus.

CLASS NOTES

PRESBYTERIAN ::

BETTY PFLITTNER HANCOCK, 1947, and her husband, Harry, recently moved to Mandeville, La., to be closer to their daughter and her family.

PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S ::

NANCY LOU HORRELL McNAMARA, 1960, has retired after 28 years in the obstetrics department of Delnor Community Hospital in Geneva, Ill. She wrote that she was expecting her sixth grandchild in June 2010 and is interested in hearing from former classmates. To get in touch with McNamara or any of the alumni featured in this issue, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-2569 or alumni@rush.edu.

MARILYN FINK McNAMARA SCHMIDT, 1964, remarried on Aug. 9, 2008. She recently moved to a new address in Marshalltown, Iowa.

RUSH ::

CORINNE A. SOVIK HAVILEY, MS 1981, associate chief nurse at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Ill., received the Organization Development Institute's "Silver Bowl Award" for outstanding organization development project of the year. She won the award for a paper she submitted as part of her doctoral program at Benedictine University.

RENEE MANWORREN, MS 1994, completed the PhD in Nursing Program at the University of Texas at Arlington in May 2010. Her dissertation was titled "Pediatric Nurses' Journeys to Relieve Children's Post-Operative Pain." Manworren is director of clinical practice development at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas.

NICOLE MOHIUDDIN, BS 1997, recently relocated to Visalia, Calif., where she has taken a position as director of clinical information systems at Kaweah Delta Medical Center. Mohiuddin is also a 2001 alumna of Rush University College of Health Science's Health Systems Management Program.

JENNIFER VINCE, BS 1997, MS 2009, has been appointed unit director of 8 South Atrium in the Department of Medical/Surgical Nursing at Rush University Medical Center. Vince previously served as the clinical nurse coordinator for 8 South Atrium and has been in a nursing management position for the last 10 years.

BETTY HORTON, DNSc 1998, former director of accreditation for AANA/COA, has been selected for fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing. Horton has been active as a consultant and is chairperson of the Education Committee for the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists.

EUNICE E. LEE, DNSc 1999, has accepted a position as associate professor in the School of Nursing at the University of California, Los Angeles. She began her new role July 1. Lee was previously an associate professor in the Department of Health Systems Science in the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

VERNA HENDRICKS-FERGUSON, DNSc 2001, professor at Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College in St. Louis, has received a two-year, $291,106 R21 exploratory/developmental grant from the National Institutes of Health-National Institute of Nursing Research (NIH-NINR). She is principal investigator of a study to develop better strategies for health care providers to discuss palliative care and end-of-life information with parents of children with brain tumors. Hendricks-Ferguson is the first faculty member at Goldfarb School of Nursing to successfully receive NIH-NINR funding.

BEN E. REMOR INVENTOR, MS 2003, is one of only 11 predoctoral recipients across the United States to receive one of the prestigious two-year John A. Hartford Foundation Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity scholarship grants. This grant provides full tuition and a stipend enabling Inventor to continue his Rush education as a full-time doctoral student.

SEND US YOUR NEWS ::

If you've received an award or honor, started a new job, have personal or family news to share or simply want to reconnect, we want to hear from you. Please send your class note to the Office of Alumni Relations by e-mail at alumni@rush.edu or by mail at the Office of Alumni Relations, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 W. Van Buren St., Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612.

IN MEMORIAM

ST. LUKE'S ::

BEVERLY E. BOCHMAN, 1945, of San Antonio; June 6, 2010

ANNE FORD STAFFORD, 1946, of Lisle, Ill.; March 1, 2010

BERNICE BOCHMAN BOHN, 1948, of Park Forest, Ill.; Oct. 3, 2009

RUTH ALDEN WILLIAMS HOOK, 1948, of Franklin Lakes, N.J.; June 21, 2010

ADRIENNE ALLISON ROBERTS, 1948, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; May 23, 2010

MARYBETH COLEMAN CURTH, 1949, of Northbrook, Ill.; April 28, 2010

CAROL ZWICK TAPLEY, 1956, of Lincoln, Neb.; March 6, 2010

BEVERLY JANE McELMURRY, 1958, of Zion, Ill., died May 14, 2010, at the age of 72. McElmurry was professor of nursing and associate dean of the Global Health Leadership Office in the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago and director of several global health and international nursing and research programs in the college. Much of her work centered on developing community-based access to health care, and her achievements included the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Senior Researcher Award, the 2001 MNRS Distinguished Service Award and the 2009 Joan L. Shaver Illinois Outstanding Nurse Leader Award. McElmurry was a three-time recipient of the UIC College of Nursing Faculty Excellence Award, was selected one of the University of Minnesota's 100 distinguished nursing alumni and was a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

PRESBYTERIAN ::

VIVIAN ADRIAN LANTIGUA, 1952, of Sun City, Ariz.; Feb. 18, 2010.

MARIAN L. GOSSARD, 1954, of Chicago; Feb. 28, 2010

FAITH VAUGHN VARENYI, 1958, of Tucson, Ariz.; June 1, 2009

TELL US WHO YOU WANT TO SEE IN *NEWS & VIEWS* ::

Wondering what a Rush faculty member has been up to? Know a former classmate who's taking the world by storm? Tell us. Submit faculty and alumni profile suggestions for *News & Views* on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RushUniversityAlumni or by e-mail at alumni@rush.edu.

GOLDEN LAMP SOCIETY FOSTERS DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE NURSE LEADERS

Joyce K. Keithley, DNSc, RN, FAAN (DNSc 1980), chairperson of the Golden Lamp Society, hosted the Golden Lamp Society Annual Luncheon and Meeting on June 10 at Rush University Medical Center. The event presented an exciting opportunity to learn about the future of the College of Nursing and celebrate the students, faculty, alumni and donors who have made it a world-class educational experience for future nurses.

The Golden Lamp Society is the premier giving society dedicated to Rush University College of Nursing. Its members have generously supported nursing education at Rush with annual gifts of $300 or more. Visit www.con.rushalumni.org/goldenlamp to learn about a few of the nursing students who were highlighted at the event as grateful recipients of the society's support.

To learn more about the Golden Lamp Society or giving to Rush, contact Kathy Heise at (312) 942-7199, or support the College of Nursing using our secure online giving form at www.rush.edu/giveonline.

NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES ALUMNET VOLUNTEER AND NETWORKING PROGRAM

The Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Rush University Office of Alumni Relations, is seeking volunteers for a new networking program that aims to connect Rush alumni with current nursing students and with each other.

AlumNet is a database of nursing alumni volunteers willing to share their time and knowledge with current students and fellow alumni. The program is designed to help alumni navigate the complex challenges of today's nursing job market and to increase the networking resources available to our nursing students and maximize their success.

The AlumNet program seeks the following volunteers:

- Mentors for incoming Generalist Entry Master's Program students
- Hosts for student shadowing visits to alumni work sites
- Preceptors to provide students with clinical learning experiences and act as role models
- Career advisors for current students and alumni
- Guest lecturers at Student Nurses Association events, alumni events or in the classroom

To volunteer
Register online at **www.con.rushalumni.org/AlumNet**.

Questions? Need more information?
Contact Kathy Heise at (312) 942-7199 or Kathryn_Risor-Heise@rush.edu.

On March 1, the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association again partnered with the Rush Student Nurses Association (SNA) to present a career night Q&A session. Guest speaker Melissa A. Burdi, MS, RN, (Rush 2003), shared test-taking strategies for nursing certification exams. This event was the second in a series of professional development lectures and presentations open to Rush students and alumni. To volunteer to speak in the series, register online at www.con.rushalumni.org/AlumNet, or contact Kathy Heise at (312) 942-7199 or Kathryn_Risor-Heise@rush.edu.

Melissa Burdi (second from left) with SNA board members Dana Merk, Allison Pierron and Gwen Bowman

news & views

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news & views

FALL 2010

PLEASE JOIN US

RUSH-PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOMECOMING

Saturday, October 23, 2010, 3–9 p.m.
Rush University Medical Center Campus
Chicago, Illinois

Come home to your fondest memories … and take in all that's new in nursing at Rush.

The day's events will include a traditional nursing tea, tour, archives display, social hour and banquet, especially honoring the Pres-St. Luke's Class of 1960.

Hotel accommodations are available at the Chicago Marriott at Medical District/UIC (just across the street from campus at Ashland and Harrison) at a special rate of $179 per night. To reserve a room, call the Marriott before Oct. 1 at (800) 356-3641 and mention "Nursing Alumni Homecoming."

Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-7199 for more information.

RUSH-PRESBYTERIAN-ST. LUKE'S NURSES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2008 – 2010 BOARD ROSTER

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You may update your e-mail or newsletter mailing address online at alumni@rush.edu or by calling (312) 942-2569. Please submit your news to alumni@rush.edu or *News & Views*, c/o Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association, Rush University Medical Center, 1700 W. Van Buren St., Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60612.

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